

DRAFT Meeting Summary - March 20, 2002
California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Water Supply Subcommittee

Attendance

Subcommittee members and alternates in attendance: Steve Hall, Jerry Meral, Gary Bobker, Francis Spivy-Weber, Tom Zuckerman, Tim Quinn, Alan Zepp (George Fraser), Richard Denton (Greg Gartrell), Bernice Sullivan (Dan Fults)

The meeting focused on the following agenda items:

- Finalize 2002 Subcommittee Priorities & Measures for Success;
- Appoint Subcommittee Membership;
- Review (CALFED) Water Management Strategy Evaluation Framework;
- Public Comment.

The majority of the meeting focused on the CALFED Water Management Strategy Evaluation Framework presentation (Ken Kirby, Mark Cowin). The presentation generated a great deal of discussion with regard to the strategies, goals, implementation, progress and the relevance to the BDPAC water supply subcommittee deliberations.

2002 Subcommittee Priorities & Measures for Success

A BDPAC subcommittee priority for 2002 is to focus on evaluating critical path projects. A critical path project is identified as one: (a) where a decision needs to be made in the immediate future; and (b) that provides balance to the competing needs for water.

The level of funding needed to evaluate all CALFED projects may not be available, thus the need to focus on critical path projects.

Critical path projects identified were:

- In-Delta storage;
- Clarify how ecosystem restoration elements of the North Delta Flood Control Improvements Project fit into the general scheme of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program;
- Clarify ecosystem restoration elements of the South Delta Improvements Program and their relationship to the North Delta ecosystem restoration elements;
- Review schedules and budgets for the CALFED surface storage projects;
- Investigate the progress made in determining methods of cost allocation for funding proposed projects and programs.

A future focus of the subcommittee will be on the North of Delta Offstream Storage Investigation, Sites Reservoir alternative.

Subcommittee Membership

Membership will be made up of California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee members or their identified alternates. Full participation by other attendees at the

meetings is strongly encouraged. This will ensure that a broad scope of interest group, policy and regulatory perspectives are represented.

CALFED Water Management Strategy Evaluation Framework

A briefing on the Water Management Strategy Evaluation Framework (WMSEF) was presented by CALFED. The presentation focused on:

- Background of WMSEF;
- Evaluation of System versus Individual Project Investigations;
- Recent evaluation framework strategies;
- Results from new Draft Report;
- Potential Roles for Evaluation Framework;
- Feedback and Next Steps.

Major issues and comments:

1. Understanding the purpose of the WMSEF and its relationship with Record of Decision. It was explained the WMSEF is a tool for finding a system-wide approach that will best integrate projects to satisfy the Record of Decision.
2. Concern that using the WMSEF will revise the ROD. Some members suggested that reevaluation was necessary because of changing situations, including new information on projects and funding limitations.
3. Balance. Perception is that the majority of CALFED work has been focused on Ecosystem Restoration. Funding projects for increasing water supply are needed.
4. WMSEF evaluation criteria. Need to be reviewed, either overall or in the context of individual projects. Review of cost/benefit evaluation criteria and in-stream flow requirements may be in order and will require peer review.
5. Assessing alternatives to storage and conveyance projects. Future analyses using WMSEF should update assumptions with regards to water conservation, retirement of agricultural land, etc.
6. Future of WMSEF. Provide implementation assistance and project coordination by doing the following: (1) help establish benchmark assumptions to be used for analyzing all projects; (2) help conduct cumulative impact analysis for each project; (3) recommend additional analyses, and (4) develop and refine analytical tools and data management processes.
7. WMSEF Budget. Current funding is \$1.5 million and there is no funding, yet, for next year.

Action Items

- Develop work plan and budget for Water Management Strategy Evaluation Framework for this year;

- Provide the Subcommittee members with a summary of the Benefit and Cost Allocation Process work plan;
- Provide the Subcommittee members and other participants access to the Draft CALFED Report “Evaluating and Comparing Proposed Water Management Actions; A Component of the Water Management Strategy Evaluation Framework”;
- Develop a page on the CALFED web site to provide access to materials related to the Subcommittee.

Future Meetings

April 24, 2002

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Sacramento, Location TBD

Draft Agenda Items:

- Delta Wetlands Storage Project
- Scope and Budget of Water Management Strategy Evaluation Framework
- CALFED Bay-Delta Program Storage and Conveyance Program Budgets